**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph at page 1, lines 5 to 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

--This application is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/313,463 filed on May 17, 1999, now Patent No. 6,638,727.--

Please replace paragraph [40] beginning on page 10; line 18 to page 11; line 23 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--As a result of the silence (with regard to symptoms) of precancer and early cancer, asymptomatic patients identified by the method of the invention will be those patients having precancer or cancer but who appear otherwise healthy and asymptomatic. Such patients may benefit greatly by administration of an estrogen activity modulator for risk reduction or therapeutic treatment of breast cancer. Basic research in the molecular biology of breast cancer appears to be indicating that breast cancer can be responsive to administration with some form of estrogen activity modulator. See Howell et al (1998) Recent Results Cancer Res 152:227-244 ("The Primary use of Endocrine Therapies") To reduce the cancer, the patient is administered an agent that blocks estrogen activity, either by modulating estrogen, its receptor, or by blocking estrogen synthesis. An estrogen activity modulator can comprise a class of agents selected from the group consisting of a selective estrogen receptor modulator (SERM), an estrogen antagonist, and a modulator of estrogen synthesis. The estrogen activity modulator can be tamoxifen, raloxifene, EM 800, droloxifene, ioxdroxifene, RU 39411, RU 58668, ICI 164384, faslodex, soy, a soy isoflavone, a gonadotropin releasing hormone agonist, or an aromatase inhibitor. The soy isoflavone can be genistein or daidzein. The aromatase inhibitor can be toremifene. Some possible candidate estrogen activity modulators are described in el Khissiin and Leclercq, (1998) Steroids 63(11): 565-74; O'Regan et al (1998) J Nat'l Cancer Inst 90(20):1552-8; Favoni and

Cupis (1998) Trends Pharmacol Sci 19(10): 406-15; Williams, G M (1998) J Nat'l Cancer Inst 90:1671; Huynh et al (1996) Clin Cancer Res 2:2037-2042; England and Jordan (1997) Oncol Res 9:397-402; Ashby et al (1997) Regul Toxicol Pharmacol 25:226-31, Long et al, (1998) J Steroid Biochem Mol Biol 67:293-304. In addition, estrogen activity modulators obtained from plants or foods can be used, including soy and soy isoflavones, including genistein and daidzein, as described in Xu et al (1998) Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev 7:1101-8, Charland et al (1998) Int J Mol Med 2:225-228, Franke et al (1998) Am J Clin Nutr 68:1466S-1473S, Kim et al (1998) Am J Clin Nutr 68: 1418S-1425S, Shao et al (1998) Cancer Res 58:4851-7, Shao et al, Journal of Cellular Biochemistry 69(1):44-54, 1998; Liggins et al (1998) Anal Biochem 264:1-7, Kinoshita et al (1998) Adv Exp Med Biol 439: 1178-29, and Dees and Kennedy (1998) Curr Opin Oncol 10(6):517-522. Estrogen activity modulators that are aromatase inhibitors are described in Mor et al (1998) J Steroid Biochem Mol Biol 67(5-6):403-411; Goss et al (1999) Oncology 56(2):114-121; Coombes (1998) Recent Results Cancer Res 152:277-84; Costa et al (1999) Cancer 85:100-3; Long et al (1998) J Steroid Biochem Mol Biol 67(4): 293-304; and Lamb and Adkins (1998) Drugs 56(6):1125-40.Gonadotropin hormone releasing agonists (GnRHA) are described ~~at website www.amaassn.org/special/womh/newsline/reuters/033154-40.htm (date Apr. 5, 1999); and~~ in ~~other~~ publications including Jonat (1998) Br J Cancer 78 Suppl 4:5-8; Szamel et al (1998) Cancer Chemother Pharmacol 42(3):241-6; Ciardo et al (1998) Minerva Ginecol 50(1-2):25-29; Nagy et al (1996) Proc Natl Acad Sci USA 93(14):7269-73; Burger et al (1996) Eur J Obstet Gynecol Reprod Biol 67(1):27-33.--